inclusive growth. It aims at making employment generation an integral part of the growth process and devise strategies to accelerate not only growth of employment but also of wages of the poorly paid. The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Plan mentions creation of 70 million new work opportunities during the Eleventh Plan Period (2007—12).

(d) No, Sir. There is no such provision at the moment.

Menace of unemployment problem

4668. SHRI LALHMING LIANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether increased rate of growth and economic development has no corresponding increase of jobs in the country;

(b) if so, further steps to be taken by Government to contain the menace of unemployment problem; and

(c) the rate of increase of employment since the launching of NREGS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) As per the two most recent quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) on employment and unemployment, growth rate in employment has been estimated at 2.56% per annum during the period 1999-2000 to 2004-05. The growth rate in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been estimated at 5.99% per annum during 1999-2000 to 2004-05 by CSO.

(b) The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages creation of 70 million work opportunities, both in rural and urban areas. Additional employment opportunities in the future will be generated mainly in the services and manufacturing sectors, in particular, labour intensive sectors, such as food processing, leather products, footwear, textiles, tourism and construction, etc.

(c) The employment situation is assessed through quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) on employment and unemployment. The latest quinquennial round of NSSO for which results are available is 61st round conducted during July 2004 to June 2005. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was launched on 2nd

February, 2006. Therefore, rate of increase of employment since the launching of NREGS is not available.

Linking of States with railways and airways

†4669. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States of the country which are not linked with railway or airways till date since independence;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether any plan has been formulated by Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of effective steps being taken by Government to implement the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Railway network is spread throughout the country and passes through almost all the States except the following where the railway line does not exist on date:—

(i) Sikkim

(ii) Meghalaya

All States in the country have been air linked. Air connectivity to Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh are being provided through helicopter operations.

(c) and (d) A new rail line from New Azara to Byrnihat in the State of Meghalaya has been included in the Supplementary Demands for Grant 2006-07 in December, 2006 and on completion of the project, railway line in the State of Meghalaya will become available. A survey for new line from Sivok-Rangpo has been taken up for bringing Sikkim on the rail map of India. However, further consideration will be possible only after the survey report is submitted.

In respect of air transport services, Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.